

**From:** Steward, Ronald Ray (UIS Student)  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
**Date:** 1/28/02 10:00am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Renata B. Hesse:

I am writing regarding the Microsoft settlement to express my disagreement.

I am a graduate student in computer science at the University of Illinois at Springfield. I have observed the software industry for several years and watched as Microsoft grew into the monopoly it is now.

This entire settlement is flawed. It apparently attempts to protect competition from other vendors that wish to run their software on the Microsoft operating system. Microsoft has already killed off the competition in the office suite and other key markets. This action is simply too late.

Much more important is that proposed settlement goes way beyond too little and is entirely superficial. Software design is very complex. There are a million ways to produce incredible advantages when the developer controls both the operating system and the software to run on it. The proposals merely attempt to preserve access to use and what might be thought of as advertising or ease of install. After this settlement has the illumination of time, it will be seen as a technical travesty of justice.

This court case will make all others pale in comparison. In the future anyone contesting Microsoft in court will likely have to prepare their briefs with pen and paper because the software giant will have access to everything written or transmitted by computer and all users will be registered for targeted monitoring. Perhaps even every computer with a microphone attached will need to be unplugged to avoid eavesdropping. George Orwell could not imagine the power you are conceding to the Software giant.

I look to our future and weep,  
Ron Steward

**CC:** 'ron.steward(a)epa.state.il.us'